

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 02569 151203Z
ACTION STR-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 STRE-00 EB-04 SSO-00 EUR-08
/029 W

-----151211Z 076032 /50
O 151120Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0873

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2569

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, SW
SUBJ: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR STRAUSS

REF: STATE 135175

1. THE EMBASSY WARMLY WELCOMES THE PROPOSED VISIT BY AMBASSADOR STRAUSS.

2. WE OF COURSE CONTACTED THE MFA IMMEDIATELY; THEY HAD HAD SIMILAR WORD FROM AMBASSADOR WACHTMEISTER IN WASHINGTON. EARLY JUNE 15 MFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL BENGT RABAEUS TELEPHONED CHARGE TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) GOS WELCOMES A VISIT BY AMBASSADOR STRAUSS AND WOULD BE "EXTREMELY HAPPY TO SEE HIM IN SWEDEN". (B) IF AMBASSADOR STRAUSS COMES ON JULY 8-9, AS PROPOSED, MINISTER OF COMMERCE BURRENSTAM-LINDER WOULD BE IN STOCKHOLM TO SEE HIM, AND INDEED IS EAGER TO DO SO. HOWEVER, NO OTHER MINISTERS WOULD BE IN TOWN. (C) IN THE GOS VIEW, THIS (ONLY ONE MINISTER) IS REGRETTABLY "THIN", SINCE THEY WOULD WISH FOR AMBASSADOR STRAUSS TO MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, MINISTERS OF ECONOMY, LABOR, AND OTHERS. (D) ANOTHER UNFORTUNATE ASPECT OF THE TIMING IS THAT THE OPEC MEETING IN STOCKHOLM OPENS JULY 11TH: THIS ADDS TO PRESSURES ON THE GOS AND ALSO MEANS SWEDEN WILL BE FULL OF JOURNALISTS (IMPLYING
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 02569 151203Z

THAT THEY MIGHT MAKE SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN OPEC AND THE STRAUSS VISIT). (E) WHILE THERE ARE THUS ADVANTAGES TO A LATER DATE, THE GOS REPEATS THAT IT WOULD BE MOST PLEASED TO RECEIVE AMBASSADOR STRAUSS JULY 8 OR WHENEVER HE COMES.

3. COMMENT: CLEARLY THE DECISION WHETHER TO COME AHEAD AS PLANNED IN EARLY JULY OR TO POSTPONE IS FOR AMBASSADOR

STRAUSS TO MAKE: THE EMBASSY--AND, WE BELIEVE, THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT--WILL BE GLAD TO DO OUR UTMOST TO MAKE THE VISIT A SUCCESS ANY TIME. BEING FAMILIAR WITH SWEDISH JULYS, WE WOULD LIKE TO ENDORSE RABAEUS'S WORDS THAT LITERALLY NO RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL (EXCEPT LINDER) WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TALK TO. (LAST JULY, WE RECALL, THE MINISTER OF LABOR GOT STUCK WITH BEING THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IN JULY--THE TRADITIONAL VACATION MONTH HERE--AND HE WAS LITERALLY ALONE WITH GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.) WE ALSO ENDORSE THE POINT ABOUT OPEC: THE SWEDES ARE ALL PRETTY UP-TIGHT ABOUT THIS MEETING. IF AMBASSADOR STRAUSS'S PURPOSE, AS STATED REFTEL, IS "TO ESTABLISH PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND TO DISCUSS MEANS FOR PROVIDING MOMENTUM TO MTN", THEN THE EMBASSY'S FRANKOPINION IS THAT THE VISIT WOULD BE MUCH MORE REWARDING SOMEWHAT LATER. AS ADDITIONAL BENEFIT WOULD BE THAT WE WOULD-ONE HOPES--HAVE A NEW AMBASSADOR IN PLACE, AND THE EMBASSY COULD DERIVE MORE BENEFIT BY AMBASSADOR STRAUSS'S HELPING HIM TO ESTABLISH HIGH-LEVEL RELATIONSHIPS. SO WE RECOMMEND CONSIDERATION OF A LATER VISIT, WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT WE STAND READY TO WELCOME AMBASSADOR STRAUSS WARMLY.

4. QUERY: OUR SWEDISH FRIENDS TELL US THAT AMBASSADOR WOLF, DEPUTY STR, IS HOLDING A MEETING OF NORDIC REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS MTN IN STOCKHOLM THE SAME WEEK. WE ARE UNINFORMED ABOUT THIS MEETING AND ITS RELATIONSHIP, IF ANY, TO AMBASSADOR STRAUSS'S PROPOSED VISIT, AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.
PERRY

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